NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

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<u>PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD FOR PROPOSED INTERSTATE 93 WIDENING</u> NOVEMBER 12 IN SALEM AND NOVEMBER 14 IN MANCHESTER

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation will hold a joint Public Hearing, along with the NH Department of Environmental Services' Wetlands Bureau and the US Army Corps of Engineers, on November 12 in Salem and November 14 in Manchester to discuss the proposed reconstruction and widening of approximately 19 miles of Interstate 93.

The two-day public hearing will begin Tuesday, November 12, 2002 in the Salem High School Gymnasium, 44 Geremonty Drive in Salem at 6:00 pm., and continue on Thursday, November 14 in the Henry J. McGlaughlin Middle School Cafeteria, 290 South Mammoth Road in Manchester, also at 6:00 pm.

Both the Salem High Gymnasium and the McGlaughlin Middle School Cafeteria will be open between 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm prior to the time of the hearing for the inspection of project plans by any interested persons.

This project involves widening Interstate 93 from two to four lanes in each direction in the Towns of Salem, Windham, Derry and Londonderry, and the City of Manchester. It also includes the reconstruction and reconfiguration of interchanges along I-93 at Exit 1 (Rockingham Boulevard), Exit 2 (Pelham Road), Exit 3 (NH Route 111), Exit 4 (NH Route 102), and Exit 5 (NH Route 28).

Also included in the proposed project are the construction of new Park and Ride facilities at Exit 2, Exit 3 and Exit 5, preserving space for a potential future rail line in the median of I-93 from just north of Exit 1 to just north of the Exit 5 interchange, and a bike path along the length of the highway corridor from Exit 2 to Exit 5.

This project will impact floodplains, properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and 83 acres of wetlands. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared and copies are available at NHDOT headquarters in Concord, the city and town offices and public libraries.